April 30, 2014

The Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) is an organization dedicated to helping North Carolina “Think and Do.” To some, the most visible component of our work is the annual Emerging Issues Forum. But for IEI, the Forum is just the beginning of the work ahead. In addition to helping North Carolina think about the critical issues affecting us, we also help move the state to action through policy and programmatic prescriptions.

Nearly four years ago, IEI began our work on healthcare innovation and hosted the 2011 Emerging Issues Forum: An Idea Exchange for Healthcare. We had two goals for this program: (1) improve healthcare access, quality and cost and (2) maximize the industry’s economic development potential for North Carolina. IEI engaged hundreds of stakeholders from across sectors, regions and perspectives in our post-Forum efforts, and I want to take a moment to update you on our progress.

Featured Partner
Click [here](#) to learn about the regulatory science efforts of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, a partner of the BCRS.

Featured Program
Click [here](#) to review the Allied Health Demonstration Model.

Featured Report
Click [here](#) to read the Business Committee on Regulatory Science (BCRS) report.
Creating a healthcare workforce in rural North Carolina

In the spring of 2011, IEI hosted community forums in four regions of the state. While needs and challenges varied from region to region, everywhere we went we heard about the demand for skilled allied health professionals, particularly in rural areas. Later that fall, IEI set out to create a model demonstration project to transition the long-term unemployed in rural North Carolina into allied health careers. The Turning Point Regional Allied Health Roundtable in eastern North Carolina is currently implementing this model. Their cohort of nine long-term unemployed workers will take their nurse aid exams this summer before taking on advanced specialty training or a health science program.

Better population health through regulatory science

Rapid advances in health innovation are bringing important changes to the way health and life science products are developed, evaluated, manufactured and used. The field of regulatory science addresses the development of new tools, standards and approaches to assess the safety, efficacy, quality and performance of these products. These advancements can be used to reduce the time and cost of safely bringing new health care products to market, which is an attractive incentive for investors. Regulatory science also has significant potential to advance personalized medicine and improve patient outcomes.

To better position the state to take advantage of these opportunities, IEI convened a business committee on regulatory science (BCRS) that met in December 2013 and March 2014. The BCRS, co-chaired by Jay Dixon (PPD) and Patrick Jordan (Quintiles), identified three foundational priorities that could eventually position the state as an epicenter for regulatory science. These include inventorying our assets, strengthening our collaborations and creating professional education and workforce development. Click here to access the list of recommendations from the BCRS and to read the full report.

I am very proud of the work that IEI and our partners have accomplished to help improve the health of the state and its people. Visit the Emerging Issues Commons Action area to learn more about our progress in addressing these and other key
challenges.

Sarah Langer
Health Policy Manager
sarah_langer@ncsu.edu